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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN

CONVENTION

THE delegates chosen by the citizens of the respective counties of this Commonwealth to put in nomination a suitable person to be supported by the democratic republicans of this state for the office of Governor at the next general election, met on Tuesday the 4th day of March 1817, at the court house in the borough of Harrisburg.

JACOB HOLGATE was unanimously chosen president, and ANDREW STEWART & Major I. D. BARNARD, were appointed secretaries.

On motion,

Resolved, That the members of this convention shall produce certificates or other satisfactory evidence of their election as such.

Whereupon it appeared that delegates were duly chosen and attended from all the counties in the state, except Allegheny, Greene

and Union.

Resolved, That this convention vote *viva voce* for the candidates to be put in nomination for the office of Governor.

On motion,

Resolved, That the convention now proceed to the nomination of candidates.

Whereupon the following persons were put in nomination, to wit:

- WILLIAM FINDLAY,
- NATHANIEL B. BOILEAU,
- ISAAC WEAVER.

The nomination being closed, on motion,

Resolved unanimously, That the members of this convention pledge themselves to support, and use their interest to secure, the election of the candidate who shall be agreed upon by a majority of the votes of all the delegates present.

The convention then proceeded to make choice of a candidate, and on counting the votes it appeared that

WILLIAM FINDLAY had ninety-nine votes.

NATHANIEL B. BOILEAU fourteen votes.

On motion,

Resolved unanimously, That having full and entire confidence in the integrity, talents, firmness and democratic principles of WILLIAM FINDLAY, and persuaded that if elected he will,

in administering the government inflexibly and studiously maintain the rights of the people, and the present ascendancy of democratic republican principles and measures, this convention recommend WILLIAM FINDLAY as the democratic republican candidate for the office of Governor in October next.

On motion,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare and report to this convention, an address to the democratic citizens of Pennsylvania.

Whereupon,

Thomas Sergeant, Thomas J. Rogers, George Plumer, James S. Mitchell and James Kerr, were appointed a committee for that purpose.

The committee withdrew, and after some time reported an address, which was read, and unanimously adopted.

On motion,

Resolved unanimously, That the proceedings of this convention, together with the address and the names of the delegates present attached thereto, be published in the democratic papers throughout the state.

On motion,

Resolved, That committees of correspondence for the city and county of Philadelphia, and the different counties of the state, be appointed, consisting of not less than three nor more than nine persons, and that the first named of the committees be a resident in the county town, and that they be authorised to supply any vacancies that may occur.

JACOB HOLGATE, President.

ANDREW STEWART, }
I. D. BARNARD, } Secretaries.

ADDRESS.

To the Democratic Republicans of Pennsylvania.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,

HAVING been specially delegated by you from the different counties of the state, to meet in Convention at Harrisburg, and select a democratic republican candidate to be recommended to your support for Governor of this commonwealth in October next, we have engaged in the duty assigned us under the deepest sense of its importance, and performed it to the best of our abilities. After free consultation we have concurred in that candidate, with a degree of unanimity hardly to be anticipated on such an occasion, and that cannot fail to be attended with an auspicious influence in securing harmony among yourselves and a happy result to our mutual exertions. Anxiously and ardently however as we may recommend that candidate, it will be necessary in order to ensure his election,

that you should duly estimate its importance, and contribute to it that zeal, activity and influence which its intimate connection with your dearest rights and interests imperiously demands.

Your knowledge of your rights and a determination to maintain them, placed a democratic administration in the government of this state. The decided declaration of the sentiments of so powerful and influential a state as Pennsylvania, has contributed in a very material degree to preserve in the government of the union men of the same politics. Sixteen years have now passed since you aided in expelling from the latter men whose conduct infringed the sacred principles of the revolution and threatened the best interests of your country. During that period the people have had an opportunity of comparing two opposite administrations, and notwithstanding the adverse events of unexampled commercial embarrassment, of foreign war, and of domestic faction, their attachment to democratic principles has continued to increase in strength and to spread to a wider extent.

Here we proudly recollect and cannot refrain from adverting to the last great contested elections in Pennsylvania. It was in 1808, during the embargo, when your produce was either perishing or selling at a very low price, that you bore an honorable testimony of your fidelity to principle and to the best interests of the nation, by the unanimity, firmness and devotion with which you went to the polls and voted for the then democratic candidates, JAMES MADISON and SIMON SNYDER. The glow of triumph that followed these pecuniary sacrifices to duty still warms your bosoms, and will stimulate you to new exertions in the righteous cause of freedom and your country.

How heart-cheering have been the results of your success! Under the upright and able administration of James Madison, our beloved institutions have preserved the spirit of liberty, our country has been protected against the aggressions of an ancient foe, the character of the nation exalted by patriotic and gallant achievements, our population and resources multiplied, and whilst other nations after sanguinary wars and convulsive revolutions have sunk back again into the gloom of slavery and superstition, America still advances in the career of freedom and still presents to an admiring world the noble spectacle of a *representative republic*, where all men are free and independent, and all power is acknowledged to be inherent in the people.

Whilst these rights and blessings have been preserved to the nation at large under the guidance of democratic men and measures, our own state under similar auspices affords abundant reason for congratulation. Its government has been administered with a mild and paternal sway; and its present flourishing condition bears the best of testimonies to the wisdom and purity of its councils. Whilst its older settlements have improved in all the comforts of life, its rich but heretofore uncultivated vales and mountains have become new seats of industry, of commerce and of civilization. Economy in our finances has placed us far beyond the necessity of state taxes, has furnished the means of valuable and extensive internal improve-

ments and has even enabled us in times of warlike pressure, liberally to contribute to the wants of the union. Tranquillity and respect for the laws have blessed us in an eminent degree. And if the events of our domestic policy have not been marked with those striking features that attend monarchical governments, it would be difficult to cite an instance in which greater political and civil blessings have been enjoyed, than those possessed by the people of Pennsylvania under the administration of Governor Snyder.

If, fellow citizens, a just, upright and conscientious discharge of public trust, a sincere love of country and its republican institutions, a wish to enjoy your own rights and to suffer others to enjoy theirs, and the repeated evidence of your being a decided majority of the people of this state, could disarm opposition, you would have just reason to expect that none would at this time engage in a contest with you. But in a free government you must expect a constant struggle on the part of the few who contend for privileges, against the many who contend for rights. Hence there are those who, excited by faction, animated by ambition and stimulated by avarice, will not allow the general weal to triumph over their individual hopes, nor submit to offer up the spirit of party a sacrifice to the dictates of patriotism. It is apparent that they have determined to try all their arts, to exercise all their eloquence, and by all the means in their power endeavor to divide and to annihilate the democracy of Pennsylvania and of the union. Fruitless and humiliating will be their endeavors, for they will assuredly end as heretofore in disappointment and defeat. You will bear in mind for what and with whom you contend, and you well know that the rights and happiness you have achieved can be secured only by union, vigilance and perseverance.

You will therefore prepare, in an election so all-important as that of Governor of this state, to contend with your former political opponents. A party which when in power sought to abridge the rights of the people and to subject freemen to arbitrary controul; whose leaders when out of power laboured to embarrass and divide you, to frustrate your efforts against an armed foe that desolated your country and threatened your independence:—who reared the hydra of faction to overawe those to whom you intrusted your defence, and to sever your country into hostile factions; who frowned on the exploits of your gallant countrymen and exulted at your disasters and misfortunes. Such are the men that will again be on the alert to overreach or vanquish you. Into their corrupt embrace have fallen those in whom disappointment or the lust of power and of office have proved too powerful for the restraints of principle, of patriotism and of public opinion, and who seek to cover under new appellations their dereliction of republican principles and their efforts to form a third party, congenial to federalism. The contest will be the same as heretofore, whatever colour the opposition may assume, or whatever novel or deceitful denomination it may employ; it must be a contest for principles; a contest between democracy on the one hand, and federalism and apostacy on the other.

The democratic candidate whom we recommend to you, has been taken up by a fair and nearly full representation of the democratic republicans of the state. Complete unanimity on any measure among a large body of people constituting one party, however desirable, is not to be expected. The fundamental principle of democracy and one without which it could not exist, is that the voice of a majority shall govern; and when that has decided, dissent and opposition should cease: nay more, the minority should cordially support the candidate who is fairly and honorably the candidate of the party. In this convention all who think alike on the great principles of public policy, all who act with the republicans, have had a fair opportunity of being represented: and if any shall refuse to abide by its choice, it can only be from a spirit of faction and intrigue, or from hostility to the principles of democracy. Those who are not for us, are against us. It is by actions we must judge of principles: and he who professes democracy, yet opposes your candidate, however he may deceive himself, cannot deceive you.

What course your adversaries will pursue as the best adapted to divide and prostrate you, and through you the democracy of the union, must be left to time to disclose. Whether they will combine in a candidate avowedly federal, or in one of equivocal principles, in whose breast ambition prevails over patriotism, and who is willing to be the corrupt instrument of any party that can place him in power and give him the distribution of office; or whether they will resort to separate candidates with a view to divide you from each other and deliver you up a prey to federal domination, we know not, nor is it material. To you and to your political adversaries, the effect, could they possibly succeed, would in either case be the same: the prostration of democratic principles and the ascendancy of federal men and of federal measures, here and in other states. One thing, however, we may venture to prophecy, if we may judge from what has already occurred, that no calumny however groundless, no falsehood however unblushing, no invention however wicked, will be spared against you and your candidate: nor will any thing be withheld that the envenomed malice of the rejected and the corrupt can contrive against the honest, the patriotic and the good.

What unions have been witnessed, what coalitions have been entered into, what conspiracies have been formed to deceive, to cheat and to overreach the people! Those who with acrimony have assailed and with bitterness have reviled each other, are now in different parts of Pennsylvania, seen to coalesce together for selfish purposes, and to heal their private griefs, in order to gratify their avarice and feed the unholy fire of ambition. Men whose sentiments were as opposite as light and darkness, are now brethren of the same principle. They associate together, they act together, they vote together: and burying their mutual hatreds under a more envenomed hatred of democracy, they purify each other by taking new names, by making a common cause, and by opposing and defaming you and the government of the state and union. They unfurl the banner of opposition, inscribe it "a union of all honest

men," and under it, like the author of the sentiment, they would rally all the "choice spirits" who are ready to trample on the rights of their countrymen, and who rather than not govern would govern by a Hartford convention, and proclaim "the Potomac the boundary, the negro states by themselves." To put down such an opposition, to keep such men out of authority, is a sacred duty we owe to ourselves, to our posterity, to our principles, and to our country.

We urge you, therefore, with the frankness of republicans, and with the earnestness and sincerity of those who have a common cause with yourselves, to be on your guard against the intrigues and artifices that from various quarters and under various pretences will be used to deceive and divide you. Esteem all as enemies to the republican cause that favor opposition to the candidate regularly agreed upon by the delegates of the great republican family. Let your motto be, The democracy of Pennsylvania: your watchwords, Union, Firmness, Vigilance: and you will, as in former times, present an overwhelming majority against all your opponents.

Your fellow citizen William Findlay, whom we recommend, not less in obedience to the general sentiment, than from our own deliberate choice, to your ardent and zealous support as the democratic republican candidate, is so well known to you, that a brief account of him is all we deem it necessary to add.

William Findlay is a native of Franklin county in this state. He was originally a farmer. He was elected to the legislature by the democratic party of Franklin county in 1797, and again in 1803. He continued to be re-elected from 1803 to 1806: and at all times supported democratic principles and politics with great ability and influence. In January, 1807, he was chosen treasurer of the state by the democratic majority in the legislature, and resigned his seat in the house of representatives. He has filled the office of treasurer by repeated annual elections up to the present time.

In public life he has displayed a vigorous understanding, a clear, cool and sound judgment, a patient industry, a sedulous attention to business, and a very intimate knowledge of the political affairs and local concerns of Pennsylvania. As a representative of the people he evinced these qualities in proposing and advocating the passage of laws for the advancement of justice and the good of the people. His legislative abilities, and an upright and intelligent administration of the fiscal concerns of the state, prove him to be qualified for the highest office in the government. He is remarkably estimable as a citizen, and republican in his sentiments, habits and manners. His qualities, both of head and heart, inspire respect for his talents, and esteem for his virtues. The large majority of voices in this convention, acting for you, and as we believe you would act if you were yourselves present, proves the general opinion entertained of his talents, principles and public services, and is the surest evidence that your votes will ratify our choice, and elect the candidate whom we recommend.

In so doing, we shall we believe, under Providence, remain united, prosperous and free: the principles of the revolution will be sacredly maintained in our borders: the rights of the people faith-

fully protected: the ascendancy of the democratic republican party preserved throughout the union: and the public affairs of this great state continue to be conducted with tranquillity, integrity, economy, and an inflexible adherence to the democratic principles and spirit of our institutions.

City & County of Philadelphia.

Jeremiah Piersol

John Rink

Nathan Jones

Jos. B. Norbury

Mathew Carey

Thos. Sergeant

James Harper, jr.

Levi Garret

John Jennings

Jacob Holgate

Isaac Worrell

Daniel Groves

Charles Souder

George Morton

Joel B. Sutherland.

Bucks.

William H. Rowland

Harman Vansant

Eli Kitchen

William Long

William Purdy.

Chester.

I. D. Barnard

James Monaghan

Joseph Pierce

Jonathan Pierce

George Hartman

Jacob Neiler.

Lancaster.

George Thompson

Jacob Hibshman

John Mathiot

George B. Porter

Henry Hains

Hugh Maccullough

William W. Steele

Michael Gundaker.

Fork.

Adam King

James S. Mitchell

John Stroman.

Cumberland.

Jacob Alter

James Giffen

John Davis.

Berks & Schuylkill.

— Peter Frailey

— Daniel Rhoads, jr.

— David Kirby

Frederick Smith

— William Schœner

— Godfried Rœhrer

John Mallowny.

Northampton, Wayne & Pike.

— Henry Jarret

— Thomas J. Rogers

— David Roth

— Peter Hilliard

— John Brodhead.

Lehigh.

— Joseph Fry

— Henry Mertz, jr.

Northumberland.

— Thomas Murray

— Henry Shaffer

Joseph Hutchison.

Union.

— Ner Middleswarth

James Dale.

Columbia.

James M'Clure.

Washington.

— Abel M'Farland

— Jacob Weirich

— James Kerr

— Joshua Dickerson

— William Vance.

Armstrong, Indiana & Jefferson.

John Taylor.

Westmoreland.

George Plumer

Peter Wallace

David Marchand.

Fayette.

— Andrew Stewart

— William Davidson

— George Dearth.

Bedford.

— John Tod

— Abraham Martin

— David Fore.

Franklin.

- James Poe
- Stephen Wilson
- Andrew Robeson
- Ludwick Heck.

Montgomery.

- Henry Sheetz
- Samuel Gross
- Christian Snyder
- William Powel
- John M'Farland.

Dauphin.

- David Ferguson
- Isaac Smith
- Christian Gleim.

Lebanon.

- Jacob Goodhart
- John Sawyer.

Luzerne & Susquehanna.

- John Bennett
- Isaac Post.

Bradford & Tioga.

- Edward Herrick.

Allegheny & Butler.

- Andrew Christie.

Huntingdon.

- Alexander Dysart
- Christian Garber
- Conrad Bucher.

Beaver.

- Samuel Power
- John Clarke.

Misslin.

- Henry Burkholder
- James Banks.

Delaware.

- Luke Cassin
- John L. Pearson
- William Brooke.

Somerset & Cambria.

- Henry Black
- James Hanna.

Lycoming, Potter & M'Kean.

- Henry Welles
- Joseph J. Wallis.

Adams.

- Daniel Sheffer
- Calvin Blythe
- James Wilson.

Centre & Clearfield.

- John Rankin.

Erie, Crawford, Warren, Mercer & Venango.

- Henry Hurst
- Samuel Hays.

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